

Issue forty eight
Winter 2011

about

about you about life about Hastings & St Leonards

Local Place Survey

The results are in...

The Olympic Torch overnight stay

Hastings is holding the Olympic Torch for East Sussex

Get it Sorted

Christmas and New Year arrangements

Rubbish and recycling

Christmas and New Year arrangements

Plus: all your favourites including our What's On guide

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In the summer edition of the About magazine I talked about the steps we as a council are taking to reduce our expenditure in light of the budget restrictions coming down from central government. One very important step in reducing our spending has been the recent major re-organisation of our senior management team. In short, this will mean reducing the number of heads of service from eleven to seven and losing the post of chief executive. Our aim over time is to realise a saving of £400,000 a year.

The debate about the new structure started with the setting up of a Staff Commission made up of members of staff below the senior management level and from different parts of the council.

This meant we started with a bottom-up approach inviting those on the front line to give us their ideas about how the council should be run.

But going through a restructuring process and reducing posts is never an easy task. All our current senior officers are highly professional and very dedicated to their jobs and to the future of the town. They have all played a significant part in the progress we have made over the last few years and deserve all our thanks.

But in this very difficult financial climate we are being forced to make tough decisions and I know once the new structure is in place everyone will work hard to make sure it succeeds

Cllr Jeremy Birch
Leader, Hastings Borough Council



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Hastings: Cause for Celebration



This winter's About magazine is a celebration of the events, places and community of Hastings, all of which help to promote our town as a great place to live and visit. The news that the Olympic Torch will be arriving here next year not only reflects the community spirit that exists within our town, but also gives us another cause for celebration! Whether it's celebrating our local produce and businesses in the Seafood & Wine Festival, or our heritage during Hastings Week, we certainly know how to celebrate. You agreed too, with over 80% of those asked rating our festivals and events as 'very good' or 'excellent' in the Local Place Survey (for the full results see page: 16)

Hastings Holds the Torch for East Sussex

Hastings has welcomed the announcement that it is to be an overnight stop for the Olympic Torch Relay next year.



John Hodges added: "It is the intention of the business community to use the period of the Games and the Paralympic Games as a shop window for Hastings and Rother. It has always been the intention of the campaign to deflect a little of the light that will inevitably fall on the UK, towards 1066 Country, and in that light extol the virtues of our town as a place to do business, or to take a vacation. "Our website www.1066twentytwelveplus.com explains our purpose and markets the town. Yes it will be a day to remember but, we need to use the events of that period as a golden opportunity to push our town into the world's vision, to milk this opportunity for all that it is worth, and then let's explore what there will be for Hastings in the legacy."

Community groups, schools, and businesses are all involved in the preparations for next year's arrival. A series of meetings have been held in The Stade Hall to discuss plans for the big event, which will be held on the Stade Open Space among other places.

Council leader Jeremy Birch said: "This is another piece of good news for Hastings. I would like to pay particular tribute to John Hodges and the Hastings Chamber of Commerce who lobbied hard for this; they have recognised the potential of the Olympics from the start.

"There is already a huge amount of interest in the Olympic torch relay. We are absolutely delighted that it will be staying overnight in Hastings, and that we will be able to host the evening show here. It will be on the brand new Stade Open Space, right in the heart of our historic Old Town, which I think is particularly fitting for such an historic event.

"Already the detailed planning is underway. We have a great history of holding events here in Hastings, and I the many voluntary organisations who help with these are already getting involved in the torch relay too.

"And I hope that we will be able to include our many unique attractions, like our cliff railways and fishing fleet, in the torch relay and celebrations if at all possible.



COASTAL CURRENTS
VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL
2011

The twelfth Coastal Currents festival was a resounding success, showcasing a wide range of art exhibitions, performances and events throughout Hastings and St Leonards.

The festival opened with Spotlight, an evening of performances, interventions and interactive activities which paraded along the seafront.

Coastal Currents began with posters advertising the festival

designed by acclaimed artists such as Maggie Hambling, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Ben Eine and Billy Childish.

Other highlights included illuminated bicycles, film screenings in a shipping container, "Twelfth Night" by the Mercatoria Company and the appearance of Clint Eastwood and Marilyn Monroe in Project ArtWorks' exhibition.

Stade Hall was key with exhibitions and events, including the extraordinary "Salt" installation by various Hastings artists, "Fish Stock" by Jim Roseveare and Parrabbola's "Eight Foot Square" performances.

The "Interface" project provided a series of public art installations

with artists from Hastings and Oudenaarde in Belgium producing work in both towns.

Councillor Peter Chowney, Lead Member for Regeneration, said: "many thanks must go to festival curators Lorna Crabbe and Sarah Yates of Creative Coast and Christine Gist for their hard work in producing such a high quality festival on limited resources".

Coastal Currents was supported by Hastings Borough Council and Arts Council England.



Hastings Museum needs your help to celebrate the 2012 Olympics

Hastings Museum is asking local residents to share their photos and memorabilia of past Olympics and Paralympics or even local sporting events and clubs for an exhibition next summer.

The donated items will help form a special Olympic-themed display, separated into three parts. First, there will be a look at the 1911 Hastings Olympics



– yes, there really was one! Mind you, most of the events wouldn't be recognised as sports today, and included such challenges as climbing the greasy pole.

Hastings Museum Curator, Cathy Walling, explained: "Although the Museum has a large archive of its own, we are sure that there are more fascinating photos and stories out there, new or vintage, which we're very keen to hear about."

So how can you get involved? The Museum would like to hear from you if you have photos, memories or memorabilia and is holding three special days in the New Year when museum staff will be on hand to scan photos and documents, note down memories and photograph objects.

So why not have a hunt through your photo albums and souvenir boxes and come along on Saturday 14 January, Tuesday 14 February or Wednesday 14 March.



A busy start to the Stade Hall and Open Space

Since its opening earlier this year, Stade Hall and Open Space has proved extremely valuable in terms of providing a unique community and meeting space in the heart of the Old Town.

So far, it's hosted this year's Seafood & Wine Festival, Coastal Currents exhibitions, the Classic Car Show, the Sprat & Winkle

classic commercial vehicle run and much more. And next year the Olympic Torch will take centre stage on the Open Space where it will stay overnight. We've put together a collection of photographs demonstrating the variety of events which have taken place so far...

Hastings and Climate Change

In 2003, Hastings Borough Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, recognising that Climate Change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century and accepting that climate change will have far reaching effects on the UK's economy, society and environment.

This declaration is reinforced by our corporate priority to 'tackle climate change and make Hastings more environmentally sustainable.' We aim to do two things: reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change, and plan to adapt to those changes that are inevitable.

Over the summer, Leader of the Council, Councillor Jeremy Birch has blogged about the issues and opportunities facing the Borough. www.hastings.gov.uk

What is climate change?

Any process that causes adjustments to a climate system, for example a volcanic eruption, could be described as creating climate change. Today, however, the phrase is most often used as shorthand for climate change caused by humans. The main way in which humans are understood to be affecting the climate is through the release of heat trapping greenhouse gases into the air.

If we fail to address the problem, there could be serious consequences, predictions include possible water shortages, sea level rise, heat waves and flood damage.

What are we doing to tackle climate change?

Hastings is the lead UK partner of Future Cities, a ground-breaking European project to help urban areas adapt to climate change.

With France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands we are applying cutting edge expertise to the adaptation challenge. Here are just a few of the things that we've been working on:

Map Table

We have showcased some of the latest technological advances from Europe such as the 'MapTable' – with an interactive computer display that can show climate models on local maps in real time to aid planning.



Enviro 21

Sussex Exchange is a conference centre off Queensway which will use and demonstrate a host of environmental technologies, including a biomass boiler, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, wind cowls (for ventilation) and has planning permission for an onsite wind turbine that could generate enough electricity to power 1000 homes.

Eco-refurbishment

Our project partner, Hastings Trust has carried out an eco-refurbishment of a Victorian terraced house. Trainees, including some long-term unemployed, learnt key skills from experts Parity Projects to install environmental features such as sun pipes, wall and roof insulation. A free guide and film is available at www.hastingstrust.com

European Partnership

Our Rouen partner is converting 800 hectares of former industrial and port sites into an 'Eco-Quarter' of mixed residential and commercial use on the West Bank of the Seine. It will have rainwater harvesting, a green corridor network and use geothermal heat.



The city of Tiel, in the Netherlands, is exploring new ways of designing public areas to face climate change. Water Squares collect water safely after heavy rainfall, provide leisure/performance space and prevent flash flooding in the surrounding neighbourhood.



Energise Hastings

Energise Hastings is a club to encourage energy efficiency, and uptake of renewable energy technology such as solar panels that has seen three installations on community buildings in the town and is now considering formal constitution.

Hastings 2066

In June this year, a Future Cities seminar asked the question, how brave and braced are we in the town to deal with climate change?

Looking ahead to Hastings in 2066 as a starting point it started the conversation on what should be in a town-wide climate change plan, to ensure we don't miss this opportunity to get prepared, for ourselves and for future generations of residents, businesses and visitors.

Other projects we are involved in include Answers to the Carbon Economy, Ecofab and a Coastal Change research project.

To get involved contact Chantal Lass or Jane Dodson 01424 451066 or email jdodson@hastings.gov.uk

More information at www.future-cities.eu



Get it sorted

The Story So Far...

You may remember reading about the launch of our 'Get it Sorted' recycling campaign in the previous edition of the magazine. In June we collected 25 bins of recycling for random sampling. Only 72% of the items collected were recyclable, items found included, glass and textiles – both of which cannot be recycled on your doorstep. Have we managed to improve things? Well here's the story so far...

June: Blogging Bandwagon

The 'Get it Sorted' recycling blog goes live! We're now updating our progress regularly: <http://getitsortedhastings.wordpress.com>

June: Spread the Word

Our recycling and waste trucks bearing the logo hit the streets to spread the word!



July: Official Campaign Launch

The delivery of the new recycling sites marks the beginning of the campaign. The Mayor of Hastings, Councillor Kim Forward attends to officially launch the event, with the unveiling of the new bins. (We'll now be able to collect glass and textiles from these areas, as identified earlier).



October: Most Improved recycler rewarded!

Anita Gander is named, 'Most Improved Recycler.'

Before the campaign began Veolia's round sheets identified problems with the level of contaminated recycling in the area leading to bins being left uncollected. However, since the beginning of the campaign there has been a marked improvement. Here's Anita showing Councillor Phil Scott how to recycle!



Anita was one of those residents who demonstrated how easy it is to change your recycling habits, she said: "Before the campaign started I wasn't sure how or what to recycle, I found it all very confusing. Now that I have a leaflet telling me what can and can't be recycled I find it much easier."

October: Pledge Winner announced!

As part of the campaign, residents were asked to sign pledges to, 'Get it Sorted.' In return they were automatically entered into a prize draw, where £100 of shopping vouchers was up for grabs.

Out of 143 entries, Mr Ted Smart was announced as the lucky pledge winner. Mr Smart said: "The campaign in our area has certainly made a big difference, I live across the road from one of the sites, which makes the journey much easier and I regularly see others using the site."



October: What a difference three months make...

Again, we collected 25 recycling bins, this time 88% of the items were recyclable, representing an impressive 16% increase!

Competition

We've come up with a fantastic poster competition, giving children the chance to see their artwork blown up onto the Recycling and Waste trucks. If you'd like to see your design travelling around Hastings then get in touch!

Design Specification

The poster must be about recycling, it could be informative – detailing what can be recycled in your area, or it could be a picture encouraging people to recycle.

The artwork needs to be landscape, on an A4 piece of paper. Your name, age, and contact details must be provided on the back of your artwork.

The entries will be split into two categories, one for children under the age of 12 and another for 12-16 year olds.

The closing date is Monday 30 January 2012. Entries should be submitted to Sandy Fox, Bulverhythe Depot, Bulverhythe Road, St Leonards, East Sussex, TN38 8AF



Get it sorted

WEEE Want Your Old Electricals

Whether it's an unwanted hairdryer, a broken kettle, or a brick of a phone, we can give your discarded electrical goods a new home this Christmas.

The recent installation of four new recycling bins, specifically for the collection of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) aims to give you the opportunity to recycle a wider range of materials and what's more we've located three of them near the biggest supermarkets and one at Summerfields Leisure Centre for your convenience. So next time you do the weekly shop or go for a game of squash, don't forget to take the electrical goods you've been meaning to shift!

Councillor Phil Scott, shared his enthusiasm, commenting: "The location of these bins means it's never been easier or more convenient for our residents to recycle. I know recycling can be confusing and not to mention time consuming, but those residents who have made the mistake of placing these items in their household waste bins in the past will know that this prevents them from being collected, so to avoid that, please make the most of these sites and do your bit for the environment."



Picture shows: From left to right: Councillor Phil Scott, Sandy Fox - HBC recycling officer and Stefan Walling, Customer Service Manager at ASDA.

Items that can be recycled:

- Mobile phones
- Remote controls
- Computer parts
- Printers
- Keyboards
- Scanners
- Electric toothbrushes
- Electric razors
- Hair straighteners/dryers/irons & similar sized electrical goods

Please be aware that larger items, such as televisions and washing machines cannot be recycled at these sites as they will not fit in the chute. However, you can take bigger items to the Recycling & Waste Household site in Freshfields, Bexhill Road or alternatively we offer a bulky waste collection service right on your doorstep, more details can be found at

www.hastings.gov.uk/bulkywaste

Please make sure you don't leave items around the outside of the bins, as this will be treated as flytipping, meaning that you could be prosecuted and fined up to £20,000.

The WEEE bins can be found at:

1. Summerfields Leisure Centre, Bohemia Road, Hastings
2. ASDA, Battle Road, St Leonards
3. Morrisons, Queens Road, Hastings
4. Sainsburys, John Macadam Way

 recycle here

New ways to pay

Since April 2011 customers have been able to pay their bills by the use of a fully automated telephone payment system that allows people with valid account details to pay via credit or debit card. The system is available 24 hours a day throughout the year for the following services:-



- Council Tax
- Business Rates
- Housing Benefit overpayments
- Parking fines
- Sundry debtors

For Council Tax payments or sundry debts

01424 451081

For Housing Benefit invoices payments

01424 451080

For Parking fines

01424 451070

Simply dial the relevant number above and select option 1 to make a payment.

You will then be asked to enter the relevant account details and your card details.

At the end of the call you will be given a reference number which you will need to keep as proof of payment.

Homemove Magazine: Important Changes

From early December, printed copies of the fortnightly Homemove magazine will be replaced with an online version www.homemove.org.uk

Over the last three years the number of magazines ordered has been reduced as more and more people are using the internet to view and bid for vacant properties in and around Hastings.

Councillor Trevor Webb, lead member for Housing at Hastings Borough Council, explained: "Research indicated that the majority of those who bid (79.80%) did so via the internet, whereas only 2.93% did so by postal coupon. This clearly demonstrates the popularity of bidding for accommodation through the Homemove website.

"In addition it is expected that we as a council will save an estimated £6,800 a year, whilst ensuring an efficient service to our residents."

Residents without access to the internet may be eligible to receive personalised communication in a written format, please contact a member of the Homemove Team for more details about how and where you can view the magazine: 01424 451100 or homemoveteam@hastings.gov.uk



Dreaming of a White Christmas?

If forecast predictions are right, there's a very good chance you may get what you wish for, but it's snow joke if the snowfall is anything like last year. We've put this handy guide together to help you clear snow and ice safely this winter.



Frequently asked questions:

Q. Who is responsible for clearing snow and ice from our roads and pavements?

A. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is the Highway Authority and the law says they must "ensure, so far as is reasonable, that passage along a highway is not endangered by snow and ice".

A full summary of the ESCC Winter Maintenance Policy and other advice is available on the ESCC website at

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/roads/maintenance/saltingandgritting

Q. Is Hastings Borough Council doing anything?

A. Whilst Hastings Borough Council is not legally responsible for treating roads and pavements during severe weather it recognises the enormity of the task and has agreed to assist ESCC and try to help make life a little easier for residents.

Last winter we purchased additional supplies of salt and have done so again this year and are making plans for its distribution in 'hippo bags' to primary and secondary shopping areas, 'hostage roads' and a limited number of locations on industrial estates.

Q. Who is going to clear the snow and ice and spread the salt?

A. We have arranged for our refuse and street cleansing contractor, Veolia, and our grounds maintenance contractor, Quadron, to assist with this work as they will not be able to do their normal jobs during severe weather. They will concentrate on the primary and secondary shopping areas.

Q. What are 'Hostage Roads'?

A. During the snow last winter we identified a number of access roads from main roads onto housing estates which if covered in snow and ice effectively trapped large numbers of people in their homes. We plan to place 'hippo bags' at these points so that residents can get together and help themselves by clearing the roads and pavements.

In spite of these efforts by both ESCC and ourselves, we are never going to be able to reach every part of the town with our limited resources. All of you as residents and businesses in the town can do your bit to help.

Good Neighbours

If you think your neighbour may have difficulty getting in or out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are okay in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, contact East Sussex County Council's Social Care Direct service on 0345 6080191.

Severe weather communications

We've updated our severe weather pages on the website here www.hastings.gov.uk/community_living/weather and will be updating the front page of the website 24-7 during the coming winter to keep residents informed of any disruption to services.

We'll also be sending out regular, relevant email alerts to residents who've signed up for them.

The Snow Code:

Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured resulting in legal repercussions; simply follow our advice to make sure you clear the pathway safely.

Clear the snow or ice earlier rather than later as fresh snow is much easier to shift

Cover the now clear area with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight

Use salt or sand – NOT water – as this could create dangerous 'black ice'

Take care where you move the snow, making sure you don't accidentally block someone's path or bin.

Girls Going for Gold

Thanks to a successful bid submitted to Hastings Youth Cash, the Active Hastings team were able to host an Olympic themed event in September as part of the 'Girls Gettin' Active' programme.

Jasmine Sage, who works for Active Hastings was responsible for putting the bid together and submitting it to the Youth Council. Jasmine said: "I really wanted to focus on getting more girls into sport and that's when I decided to put this bid together, aimed at achieving that."

Liz Powch and Oli Fawcett from Hastings Youth Council attended the event to see how the money contributed. Oli explained: "We made the decision to fund the event because we felt that this would be a unique event, celebrating an international event locally."

Councillor Jeremy Birch, leader of Hastings Borough Council, was there to open the event. He said: "I'd like to thank Jasmine in particular, whose proactive approach, motivation and selflessness enabled the event to go ahead. My thanks extend to the Youth Council who made the decision to allocate funding to this project. Judging by the amount of girls and young women who turned up and by the excited looks and smiles on their faces, I'd say the event was a huge success."

Girls and young women from across Hastings were invited to Summerfield's Leisure Centre to take part in the 'Girls Going for Gold' event, offering participants free sports activities all day.



Active Hastings prepares for the arrival of Olympic torch

As the London Olympics draw near, the Active Hastings team are hoping people throughout the town will be inspired to make greater use of Hastings' swimming pool, leisure centres, and parks, and take up more regular sport and recreational activities to make healthier lifestyles one of the long term legacies of the 2012 games.



Flagged out on Hastings Day

From the spectacular firework display to the Town Criers' Championships, Hastings Week 2011 proved to be an almighty success, with thousands of residents and visitors turning up to take part in the celebrations.

We'd like to thank all of those who give their time to organise this wonderful event year after year.

On the 945th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings history was made at the Town Hall during this year's event. Two flags, the standard of William, Duke of Normandy and King Harold's were flown at the same time.

This revived a tradition that was common at the time of the Battle of Hastings when a victorious army showed that they had won by raising their flag above that of the beaten side. The practice is continued in a way today when flags are flown at 'half mast', signifying that death, the unseen warrior, has won. It is believed that this is the first time two flags have been flown like this for many, many years.

Both standards that flew from Hastings Town Hall on Friday are depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry. That of William, the gold cross on a silver ground, is thought to have been the papal gonfalon presented to him by the Pope. King Harold's dragon is based on the famous dragon standard of Wessex and was one of two carried by the Saxons.



Rubbish, Recycling and Medical Waste Collection Dates for Christmas and New Year

CHRISTMAS WEEK

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday 20 Dec | normal collections |
| Wednesday 21 Dec | normal collections |
| Thursday 22 Dec | normal collections |
| Friday 23 Dec | normal collections |
| Christmas Eve | normal collections |

NEW YEAR WEEK

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 26 Dec | collected Tuesday 27 Dec |
| Tuesday 27 Dec | collected Wednesday 28 Dec |
| Wednesday 28 Dec | collected Thursday 29 Dec |
| Thursday 29 Dec | collected Friday 30 Dec |
| Friday 30 Dec | collected Saturday 31 Dec |

Collections continue as normal from Monday 2 January 2012

The Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Pebsham will be open until 1pm on 24 December and closed 25 & 26 December. It will be open as usual from 27 to 30 December, until 1pm on 31, and closed on 1 January. Normal opening times resume from 2 January 2012.

01424 451077

www.hastings.gov.uk/recycle

recyclingandwaste@hastings.gov.uk

